

## COMINT

**RELEASE 2000/9**  
**SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY**

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA/WHSS

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

RELEASING OFFICER

### COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100090015-3

CL BY:

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

VISIT BULGARIA.

POPOV WILL CERTAINLY EMPHASIZE THE BENEFITS OF INCREASED BILATERAL TRADE AND JOINT VENTURES IN HIS TALKS WITH US OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

SOFIA HAS ALREADY TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO CLEAR THE SLATE OF GRIEVANCES AND REQUESTS THAT WASHINGTON CITED IN FEBRUARY 1973 AS OBSTACLES TO THE NORMALIZATION OF US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.

THESE INCLUDE:

- ENDING THE JAMMING OF VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS,
- CONCLUSION OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION, AND
- BEING MORE COOPERATIVE IN DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES.

SOFIA'S ACTIONS MARK A SHARP DEPARTURE FROM BULGARIA'S PREVIOUS POLICY, WHICH STRESSED THE NEED FOR EXPANDED ECONOMIC TIES BEFORE INCREASED POLITICAL COOPERATION COULD DEVELOP.

SOFIA'S WOOLING OF THE US IS TRANSPARENTLY DESIGNED TO MAKE POPOV'S VISIT AS PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE. THE BULGARIANS HAVE BEEN PUSHING HARD FOR EXPANDED ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE WEST--IMPLYING THAT THEY ARE LESS CONFIDENT THAN HERETOFORE OF UNLIMITED ECONOMIC SUPPORT FROM THE USSR. E-2 IMPDET.H

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